if so, what is the nature of the control exercised by Government on it; and

(b) what are the reasons that for the past so many years the Director General, Dr. H.V. Visvesvaraya, is simultaneously holding the position of the Chairman (an elective office valid for one year) of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Contributions from the industry form the major source for its revenues. It is also entitled to receive Grant-in-aid from Government to meet expenditure of capital nature on specific schemes approved by the Government. Then, there are fees received by it for sponsored projects, training programmes, etc.

(b) The present Director-General has been functioning also as Chairman of the society by virtue of an enabling provision in its Rules.

Operations of KVIC in North-East region

38. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission is going to improve its operations in the North-East region by providing better infrastructural facilities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In the North-East region KVI activities are being implemented through 5 State Khadi & Village Industries Boards, 46 Registered institutions and cooperatives assisted directly by KVIC. Govt. is laying stress on improving the infrastructural facilities for the development of Khadi and Village Industries activities in the North-East region. Continuous efforts are being made to improve the infrastructual facilities by opening new sub-offices, improving the training facilities in different industrial disciplines. opening up departmental units, extending liberalised pattern of assistance wherein 75% financial assistance is given as grant and 25% as loan for purchase of tools and equipments and machinery and 50% for building and worksheds in these regions.

KVIC has provided Rs. 231·19 lakhs during 1985-86, Rs. 229·62 lakhs during 1986-87 and Rs. 362·09 lakhs during 1987-88 for the improvement of KVI activities in North-East regions.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders

39. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of LPG cylinders in the country is causing great hardship to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether this shortage is a primary factor for deterioration in the customer service;

(c) whether Government are aware that this has given rise to many malpractices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The